

River Run

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Young River People's Council Newsletter

Mid-Year UNITY Conference

In Scottsdale

Mid-Year UNITY took place in Scottsdale, Arizona. During the conference, each day we split into groups where we had to think about things to advocate for within our community. My group wanted to advocate for preserving culture, by planting traditional plants and installing culture classes in our education systems. I got to meet new people from new places and it was really fun.

—Cynthia Alvarez



I had the chance to attend the UNITY Mid-Year conference and participate in their round dance. It was a fun and amazing experience especially singing traditional songs with our sister tribes. The other tribes like the Apaches, Navajos, and Havasupai had great performances. I enjoyed dancing with other Tribes and learning their songs and dances.

— Caleb Dash



This year at the Mid-Year UNITY conference I had a lot of fun. I got to meet lots of new people. It was cool to see other tribes traditions and dances. I enjoyed listening to Dr. Evan Adams speak. I also learned that many communities have the same issues as we do. Other youth councils spoke about how they are making changes on their reservations. UNITY was life changing because, it inspired me to make changes in our Community.

—Eric Schurz Jr.

During the Mid-Year UNITY conference I had a lot of fun. I ran in the mock Miss UNITY pageant. I had to introduce myself and preform a talent. I sang 'Bohemian Rhapsody' to make people laugh which it did. The audience decided the winner by applause and surprisingly won! It was a good opportunity to get out of my comfort zone. After the pageant, Robert Johnston hosted a hypnosis show. I got picked to be hypnotized and after it was over people were telling me all the crazy stuff I did such as talk very loudly and dance. That was my favorite night of the UNITY conference. —Teegan Smith

Youth Leadership Day



On February 23rd our youth council went to the Phoenix College for Youth Leadership Day which was hosted by the Future Inspired Native American Leaders Youth Council. It was a good day, we started the morning off with breakfast burritos and ice breakers. Then we split up into clans and went into workshops. My workshop was on native youth identity and learning culture responsibility. Afterwards we were provided with lunch and got a chance to look through the college fair. Overall, it was a great event, we made new friends and learned a lot. -Sommer Lopez

NCAI Executive Session - Washington D.C



Congresswoman Debora Haaland



On Feb. 10th I attended my first Executive Session with the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) in Washington D.C.. Jeri Bruno and Christian Weaver were the facilitators for the NCAI Youth Commission. We worked on addressing issues in Indian Country like the Violence Against Women Act, Indian Child Welfare Act and Language Revitalization. I learned a lot and got to know my fellow Youth Commission officers. It was inspiring to listen to Congresswoman Haaland and Representative Davis speak. I enjoy spending time with our Tribal Leaders and I was to thank them for allowing me to attend NCAI. -Marisela Villegas

First Pitch

I was very excited to throw the opening pitch at the Diamondbacks game. It was kind of cold and windy out but it was a nice day. I walked up nervously to the mound but it was cool seeing all the people. I threw the first pitch and it curved towards the left of the catcher but I didn't mind because I thought it was funny. The rest of the game was good for the Diamondbacks at the beginning until the Rockies caught up near the last innings and won. -Caleb Dash

***For questions about joining the Young River People's Council please email Christine Porter at Christine.porter@srpmic-nsn.gov or call 480-362-7527.**



@Young River People's Council—YRPC

Upcoming Events

April 4th - Exec Meeting 4pm at TW (EC Only) April 4th - YRPC Meeting 5PM at TW

April 5th - UNITY Virtual Conf. at ASU

April 13th - Singing with Barnaby Lewis 12pm at TW

April 18th - O'odham Bingo

April 19th - Singing with Barnaby Lewis 12pm at TW

April 25th - Exec Meeting 4pm at TW (EC Only)

April 25th - YRPC Meeting 5pm at TW (all)

April 27th - Singing with Barnaby Lewis 12pm at TW